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# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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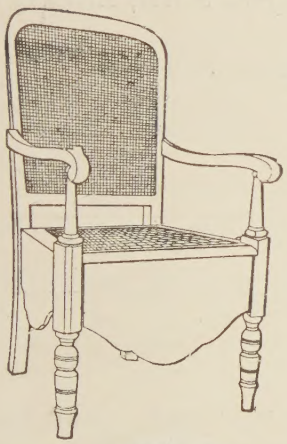

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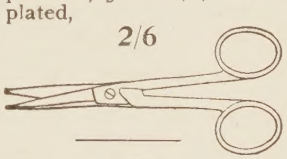

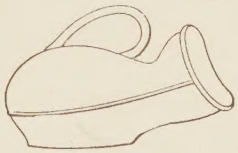

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## CONTENTS OF THIS WEEK'S NO.


PAGE

249—The Interests of Mankind.
250—Our Prize Competitions.
251—Prophylactic Treatment.
251—Joint War Committee.
252—Nursing and the War.
253—Care of the Wounded.
254—French Flag Nursing Corps.
254—With a Collecting Company.
255—The St. Marylebone Nursing Homes War Savings Association.
255—National Union of Trained Nurses.
256—Irish Nurses and Higher Education.
256—"The Mysterious Pact."
256—Colonial Nursing Association.
257—Appointments.
258—Nursing Echoes.
259—League News.
260—A Woman Member of Parliament.
260—Retirement of Father Russell.
261—Book of the Week: "This Way Out."
262—Letters to the Editor.

**"THE MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT.**

263—The East-End Mothers' Lying-in Homes.
264—Infantile Death Rate.
264—The Royal Maternity Charity.
264—Infant Welfare Work at the Royal Free Hospital.
264—The Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital.

THE
BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,515. SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1917. Vol. LVIII.

## EDITORIAL.

### THE INTERESTS OF MANKIND.

The noble address to Congress of President Wilson (U.S.A.) in which all the weight of his influence was given on the side of war with German autocracy, is a historic declaration, in the course of which he said :

"Our object is to vindicate the principles of peace and justice in the life of the world as against selfish autocratic power, and to set up amongst really free and self-governed peoples of the world such a concert of purpose and action as will henceforth ensure the observance of these principles. Neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved, and the freedom of its peoples and the menace to that peace and freedom lies in the existence of autocratic Governments backed by organised force, which is controlled wholly by their will and not by the will of their people. . . . Only free peoples can hold their purpose and their honour steady to the common end and prefer the interests of mankind to any narrow interest of their own."

It is a matter for pride for American nurses that now that the die is cast the nursing department is the one Government Department in the country which is said to be really prepared for war. *The American Journal of Nursing* states "the Army Nurse Corps and the Navy Nurse Corps are at full strength, and their reserves, as represented by the Nursing Service of the Red Cross of nearly 8,000 of our most highly trained women, would be sufficient for any demand made upon it. Nurses did not need a second experience like the Spanish American War in order to see the need of preparedness for an emergency of this kind. The immediate result of that experience was a concerted action on the part of our two national societies for a place in our Army for women nurses in time of peace, and naturally a similar service for the Navy followed."

Each of these Services has its own highly trained Superintendent; the Army Nurse Corps, Miss Dora E. Thompson, R.N., the Navy Nurse Corps, Miss Lenah S. Highee, M.L.A., R.N., with their official headquarters respectively in the War Department and the Department of the Navy at Washington, while the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service has as its Chairman Miss Jane A. Delano, R.N., under whose guidance and organization this Service has attained a high degree of efficiency.

The lesson of this preparedness is that the organization of skilled professions should be placed in the hands of members of the profession concerned. In this country, when war was declared, the British Red Cross Society had no Roll of trained nurses, with qualifications investigated, ready to be called up, because, although the Matrons' Council had constantly, over a period of many years, drawn attention to the need for such organization, no steps were taken to secure, or to authorise, the co-operation of the nursing profession. The organization of the Red Cross Nursing Service in the United States of America has been entrusted to an experienced Superintendent, and the result is 8,000 highly trained women ready for duty. We have no hesitation in saying that a similar number might have been at the disposal of our own Government at the outbreak of war had the British Red Cross Society invited the co-operation of the nursing profession in time of peace.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

**WHAT PRECAUTIONS WOULD YOU TAKE IN NURSING PATIENTS IN A WARD DEVOTED TO THE RECEPTION OF PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM VENEREAL DISEASES? HOW MAY INFECTION BE SPREAD (1) FROM ONE PATIENT TO ANOTHER: (2) TO THE NURSE IN CHARGE?**

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Gertrude L. Sheppard, Fortune Green Road, West Hampstead.

### PRIZE PAPER.

The name venereal disease is a misnomer, since it implies that the disease is only contracted in sexual intercourse, which is misleading. It consists of three quite separate affections—namely, syphilis, gonorrhœa, and chancre. Chancre is a purely local infection, and though the same germ has been found in the infected sores, as in syphilis and gonorrhœa, yet it is not so virulent, and has not the same serious effects upon the public health.

The germ of syphilis is like that of malaria—a protozoon—and belongs to the lowest group of the animal kingdom. It is spiral in form and known as *spirochæte pallida*, and it can be detected by microscopic methods in every form of syphilitic lesion, as well as in blood and other secretions.

As these two affections, syphilis and gonorrhœa, are quite distinct, I will take them separately to see how the infection is spread.

Syphilis is contagious. There must be actual contact between the exudation or secretion of a patient, containing the germ, and the skin or mucous membrane of the person who receives the contagion. This contact may be indirect. Direct contagion is mostly by sexual intercourse and by kissing. A man has a syphilitic sore on his lip; unaware of its great infectivity, he kisses wife or child, and if they should have a tiny crack or abrasion of the skin, the disease may be passed on. One youth was known to infect six girls at a kissing game from a syphilitic sore on his lip. The objects most frequently instrumental in passing on indirect contagion are razors, combs, brushes, forks, spoons and drinking vessels, tobacco pipes, wind instruments and glass-blowing instruments, dental and surgical instruments if not kept sterilized.

When shaving a customer the hairdresser may make a small cut, and if the customer should be in the constitutional stage of the disease, though the blood may be removed from the razor and the razor dipped in hot water or some antiseptic, the tiny invisible germ may still cling to it, and if it should inflict a cut on the next customer, it might infect him with the disease.

In gonorrhœa the patient is infectious in the incubation stage; this is why it is so widespread a disease. The germ belongs to the coccus group of bacteria, and is known as the gonococcus, and is rounded, not rod-like. The contagion *may* be conveyed indirectly by hands defiled with the gonorrhœal discharge, or from the infected seat of a water closet, yet it is almost always communicated sexually. The germ finds entrance, not through the skin, but through the mucous membrane—in men, the mucous membrane of the urethra; in women mostly the mucous membrane of the vagina. The average incubation period is from two to seven days, though it may be from one to twenty-one days.

Gonorrhœa is the cause of a large number—probably 70 per cent.—of the cases of ophthalmia neonatorum (inflammation of the eyes of the new-born). The conjunctiva, the mucous membrane which lines the inside of the eyelids and the front part of the eyeball, is infected by the gonorrhœal discharge from the mother, or it may be infected after birth by the infant touching its eyes, or by defiled touch. Repeated microscopic examinations must be made to detect the disease, as in the chronic stage the germ may be quiescent for weeks together, in the folds of the vagina. Specimens of urine and vaginal discharge must be saved for microscopic examinations.

In nursing patients in a ward, whether devoted to venereal diseases or otherwise, great precautions should be taken:—

(1) For the patients to prevent re-infection. A patient in the secondary or tertiary stage could pass on the infection to a patient in the incubation and primary stages. Infection of a patient free from these diseases is of course very serious. Everything for each patient should be kept separate and labelled clearly with his or her number or name—every cup, spoon, fork, knife, razor, washing bowl, towel, the bed clothes and the day clothes (if the patient is up), bed pan, urinal, and cloths for covering these. If a rubber or gum elastic catheter is used, it should be sterilized and kept for that one patient, and destroyed after use. The same applies to vaginal nozzles other than glass ones. If vaseline is used to lubricate catheter or nozzle, a pot should be kept for each patient. All things after being used by the patient should be immersed in a bowl of anti-

septic before being washed, and linen should remain immersed for twelve hours before being wrung out and sent to the laundry.

(2) The nurse in charge cannot be too careful. After performing any nursing duty, however small, for the patient, she should soak her hands in a bowl of disinfectant of definite strength and then wash them, especially after giving and taking away bed pans and urinals, and emptying them carefully and disinfecting them thoroughly.

Any cloth soiled should be immersed *at once* in disinfectant. After giving vaginal douches and attending to babies' eyes, or to the patient, the nurse should disinfect her hands before touching anything else.

She must care for her hands most scrupulously. Any crack, or the smallest abrasion, must be covered with a rubber glove. [A better plan, and one which in our opinion should invariably be adopted by nurses attending to venereal cases, is that rubber gloves should always be worn.—Ed.] The slightest sore must be at once reported to the medical officer.

The nurse should have no meals in the ward or ward kitchen. Before leaving the ward, she should thoroughly disinfect and wash her hands and change overall or apron.

**HONOURABLE MENTION.**

The following competitors receive honourable mention :—Miss M. Robinson, Miss J. Swift, Miss P. James, Miss M. C. Garrett.

**QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.**

How are wounds infected? How may infection be avoided or minimized?

## PROPHYLACTIC TREATMENT.

The figures in regard to venereal diseases in the New Army, recruited from the best element of the young men in Great Britain, prove that already the proportion is 48.5 per thousand. Thus, out of an Army of 5,000,000 men 250,000 are infected with venereal disease. From the point of view of military efficiency this is very serious, but equally so is the ultimate effect on the health of the civil population.

The system adopted in this country is to provide centres where these diseases can be treated. The rational method is to prevent their development. The bacilli causing venereal diseases are now known, and the scientific way of dealing with them in the Army is to provide prophylactic treatment in each camp for men who have exposed themselves to infection. It is the really effective method, inasmuch as prevention is better than cure.

## JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The following Sisters have been deputed to duty in Home Hospitals :—

*Overcliff Hosp., Westcliff-on-Sea.*—Mrs. B. Gillingham.

*Maxillo Hosp., Princes Road, Kennington.*—Miss Mary E. James.

*Red Cross Hosp., Wallasey, Cheshire.*—Miss Cicely Smith.

*V.A.D. Hosp., Cirencester.*—Miss Margaret Garrard.

*St. John's Hosp., Sevenoaks.*—Miss Blanche Hardbottle.

*Town V.A.D. Hosp., Rugby.*—Miss Elizabeth Orford.

*Town Close Hosp., Newmarket Road, Norwich.*—Miss M. K. Burton.

*Red Cross Hosp., Wallingham.*—Miss Bertha Ellen Hutchinson.

*Rest Home for Nurses, St. Lawrence, I. of W.*—Miss Violet Mary Kirby.

*Holmes Hosp., Sherborne.*—Miss Katherine F. Hefferman.

*Eastfield Lodge, Guildford.*—Miss Jane Mary Hughes.

*National Shell Filling Factory, Chilwell, Notts.*—Miss Laura M. Chambers.

*Red Cross Hosp., Llandovery.*—Miss Olwen Rhys.

*Military Hosp., Llandudno.*—Miss Dowtney Dike.

*Gifford House, Roehampton.*—Miss Beatrice Stephens.

*V.A.D. Hosp., Peak House, Sidmouth.*—Miss Christobel May.

*Red Cross Hosp., Christ Church Road, Streatham.*—Miss Ethel Goodall.

*Englethwaite Hall, Armathwaite, Cumberland.*—Miss Sarah Edwards.

*The Melka Hosp., Yerreeston, Streatham.*—Miss Ada Potts.

*Beach Hosp., Holyhead.*—Miss Eleanor Whitton.

*Stanley Hosp. for Soldiers and Sailors, Holyhead.*—Miss Florence Mosley.

*Aux. Military Hosp., Timberherst, Bury.*—Miss Maud Robinson.

*Red Cross Hospital, Freeford, Lichfield.*—Miss Mary Mayers.

*Red Cross Hosp., Basingstoke.*—Miss Margaret C. Brown.

*Aux. Military Hosp., Hampton Court.*—Miss Beatrice Archer.

*Percy House Schools, Isleworth.*—Miss Rhoda Allen.

*Bigadon House, Buckfastleigh.*—Miss Margaret Steele.

*Red Cross Hospital, Wincanton.*—Miss Mary T. Pearse.

*Garswood Hall Aux. Military Hosp., Makerfield, Lancs.*—Miss M. M. Doyle.

*Red Cross Hosp., The Barracks, Grantham.*—Miss Mary Chillingworth.

# NURSING AND THE WAR.

## THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

The following Sisters had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on April 4th, when His Majesty invested them with the Royal Red Cross (second class) :—

Sister Marian Bannister, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, Sister Gladys Williamson, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, and Sister Marjorie Hope-Reford, Uganda Nursing Service.

After the Investiture the Sisters were received by Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House, much to their pleasure.

Principal Matron Miss R. E. Darbyshire, R.R.C. (Territorial Nursing Service), who has resigned the position of Principal Matron at the Second London General Hospital, Chelsea, in order to take up her duties as Chief Lady Superintendent of Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, was also received by Her Majesty.

The rank of Lady of Grace in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem has been conferred on Miss Darbyshire.

Lafayette.

**MISS ROBINETTE,**
**Who has been awarded the Royal Red Cross, and who was on the "Britannic" when it was torpedoed last November.**

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The Asylums and Mental Deficiency Committee of the London County Council, at its meeting on April 3rd, presented the following report:—

We have much pleasure in reporting that among the women to whom H.M. the King has been graciously pleased to award Royal Red Cross decorations in recognition of their valuable services connected with the war, are included the following eight members of the staff of the Horton (County of London) War Hospital. Seventeen other members of the hospital staff have been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for valuable services rendered in connection with the war.

Those whose names are starred are members of the Committee's permanent staff.

AWARDED THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

*1st Class.*—*Miss M. M. Thorburn, matron.

*2nd Class.*—Miss C. Carmichael, staff nurse; Miss H. O. Cooper, sister; Miss M. Elsdon, sister; Miss M. Fitz-Henry, first principal sister; Miss S. M. Fox, sister; Miss H. Wilson, sister; and Miss E. M. Wood, sister.

MENTIONED FOR VALUABLE SERVICES RENDERED.

Miss M. L. Baines, second principal sister; Miss E. M. Barber, sister; *Miss L. Barton, senior probationer; *Miss G. Garner, senior probationer; *Miss B. O. Gilbert, senior probationer; Miss C. Graham, sister; Miss S. Holt, sister; *Miss H. Hicks, senior probationer; *Miss H. Jackson, home sister; Miss H. Lambert, staff nurse; Miss M. Monkhouse, staff nurse; Miss E. McMullen, staff nurse; Miss B. E. Macey, sister; *Miss A. Newman, assistant home sister; Miss A. Sherras, sister; Miss D. Verity, staff nurse; Miss C. L. Willoughby, sister.

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By the courtesy of the Editor of *The Gentlewoman* we are able to publish the accompanying portrait of Miss Robinette, one of the nursing staff on board the *Britannic*—a hospital ship bound for Mudros — when she was sunk by an enemy submarine. It will be remembered that an R.A.M.C. officer subsequently stated: — "I know that women can be brave, but I never dreamed they could rise to such heights of cool, unflinching courage as those nurses did when under Miss Dowse, the Matron, they lined up on deck like so many soldiers and unconcernedly and calmly waited their turn to enter the boats. We men are proud of them, and we can only hope England will hear of their courage. They were magnificent."

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We are glad to learn that trained nurses are well to the front near the fighting line in France. They are in the right place.

## CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

May 8th is to be Joan of Arc Day, in aid of the "Three Arts Women's Employment Fund." Joan of Arc's emblem, the "Fleur de Lys," will be sold in the streets. Mlle. Gina Palerme, in coat of mail, will ride through the streets on a charger, and there will be a "Pageant of Fair Women," by Mr. L. N. Parker at the Queen's Hall in the evening, in which the usual galaxy of beauty and talent will take part. Those of us who quarter the "Fleur de Lys" on our coat-of-arms are specially interested in this function.

The Viscomtesse de la Panouse, who is President of the French Red Cross, is making an appeal for help so urgently needed in the devastated areas of France which have lately been reconquered by the French and British. At Noyon especially women's clothing of all kinds is urgently wanted at once. A special fund for this purpose is to be raised over here, and there is no doubt about it receiving substantial and generous support.

There has recently been on view in the courtyard of Devonshire House a fully-equipped motor dental-surgery car for the use of British troops in France. The car has been designed and fitted with complete dentistry appliances, at a cost of £1,400, and presented to the Royal Army Medical Service. The interior arrangements provide two adjustable chairs for patients, a bench for the mechanical worker, water supply, Primus stoves for heating sterilizing basins, and cabinets for all necessary instruments, drugs, and dressings.

The Wounded Allies Relief Committee, 8, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W. 1, has presented to the Serbian Relief Fund the sum of £500 for the purpose of providing food for sick and wounded Serbian prisoners of war in Germany.

Recently we gave some account of the Hôpital de l'Océan at La Panne, of which Miss Violetta Thurstan is Matron, and mentioned the Nurses' Club. The charming picture which we publish herewith shows the club, formerly an inn, on the left-hand side. It gives an excellent idea of the situation of this hospital on the Belgian coast, the Nurses' Club being close to the Plage.

THE NURSES' CLUB.
Hôpital de l'Ocean, La Panne.

La Panne is a village inhabited by fishermen, who have built their dwellings in sheltered places amongst the dunes. The low, white cottages, with the strings of dried fish hanging on the walls, nestle in the little valley from which the place takes its name (for *panne* in Flemish means "a hollow") surrounded by trees and hedges, gay with wild roses in the summer time. Each cottage stands in its small plot of garden ground, and most of the families own fishing boats of their own, and farm a holding which supplies them with potatoes and other vegetables.

For a long time these cottages were the only houses at La Panne, which was seldom visited, except by a few artists, but about 25 years ago the surveyors and architects made their appearance, paths and roads were laid out, and, as if by magic, cottages and villas and the inevitable *digue de mer* have sprung up on the dunes near the sea and not very far from the original village. The chief feature of the new La Panne is that the houses are, except those on the sea front, built on the natural levels of the ground, some perched on the tops of the dunes, and others in the hollows which separate them. The effect is extremely picturesque, and the example of the builders of La Panne is being followed at other places.

A most interesting museum attached to the Val de Grace Hospital has recently been arranged in Paris, where one may see in realistically coloured plaster casts the marvels accomplished by surgery for wounded soldiers since the war.

In a series of galleries there is a succession of models of the different parts which form the Service de Santé in full work at the front. Trained nurses passing through Paris should try to obtain permission to see these historic galleries.

At the French-Canadian Hospital at St. Cloud Colonel le Bel, the chief doctor of the Hospital, who came to France with the first Canadian contingent, has been presented with the Cross of the Legion of Honour.

## FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

*Kai Tiaki* is taking up the question of a New Zealand Nurses' Memorial Fund, first negotiated by "Peter Pan" in the "Evening Post." His letter comments on the fact that nothing has yet been done for the nurses, his attention having been drawn to them by the announcement of Sister Lind's death. Of her he says: "A delightful, alert, tactful nurse, devoted to her profession." She and her friend, Miss Hitchcock were in England (members of the Registered Nurses' Society) when war broke out, and immediately volunteered for service first in Belgium and then in France, and endured many hardships. As members of the French Flag Nursing Corps, these two dear women rendered heroic service at Bergues and elsewhere, and should the sacrifice of her life inspire recognition and help for her fellow nurses — who have also given greatly in this war—Sister Lind well deserves that her name, with others, notably the heroines of the *Marquette*, should be associated with the memorial, be it a nurses' rest home or some other practical gift.

Mrs. Borden Turner's Hospital, where a very happy unit of the F.F.N.C. have been at work for some time, has been moved from Rousbrugge, much enlarged, and has begun to admit very severe cases.

## WITH A COLLECTING COMPANY.

A good deal of perhaps mistaken criticism was evoked by the suggestion of Mrs. H. J. Tennant at the Albert Hall that women should occupy themselves in a house to house collecting of rags, but scraps in war time are evidently not overlooked by our well-organised enemy the Hun, as we learn from the following article in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*.

### SCRAPS IN WAR TIME.

The Soldiers of course call them the "Rag and Bone Men" with that characteristic sense of humour which makes a joke of everything. And if you watch a Collecting Company at work, the childish memories suggested by the nickname are the first to occur to mind. You see the donkeys stepping along the street, you hear the tune after which the children run, as they did after the Pied Piper of Hamelin; you see the old Rag Collector when his pile is large enough, opening a mysterious box and bringing out all sorts of lovely things—necklaces, rings, everything of incredibly good quality and to the child mind so eminently desirable and enticing—the reward of those who have helped him in his labours. This peaceful picture of childhood's days has now been obliterated. Other times have come upon us, placing even the Rag and Bone men in Government service; and in no unimportant post. As in civil life, the contempt for this calling was founded upon an absolute ignorance of the value of old stuff as raw material for many important manufactures, so it was too in military matters. People used to despise the supply and transport corps, regarding it as unimportant and despicable; but in this war, its extreme importance has been proved. Where would the fighting regiments be without provisions and ammunition behind them? Any part of the army is just a link in one great chain, and no chain is stronger than its weakest link! The Collecting Company must be judged from this point of view.

Our enemies thought to kill us from want of food and of raw materials, copper, nickel, india-rubber, &c. That was a good plan, but it was made without taking into account German science and civil organisation, or lastly, the Collecting Companies. How they help, we will see by a glance at their work. Their activity extends over the whole of the supply train and wherever the army is found, to the farthest grave on the field of battle.

The Collecting Company gathers up all the equipment carelessly flung aside, every worn-out weapon; superfluous articles of kit, &c, cast away clothing, any kind of damaged material, and collects any kind of metal from a copper wire to a cast horse shoe or an empty jam tin—from huge oak wine-casks to the smallest beer bottle, from railway carriages that have been standing under fire, to a single broken wheel.

The railway nickel-steel lines, which have been misused, are also collected and taken to a repair

shop, so that they may again fulfil their proper end. A find of leather in a wayside rubbish heap furnished materials worth about ¼ million marks, but even a bootlace is not despised.

A village pond glitters peacefully in the sunshine. The zealous Collecting Company suspects more in it than fish, and pumping it dry discovers heaps of weapons and munitions left hidden by the retreating French. Nothing is safe from the eye of the Collecting Company, either above or below ground.

Now they are peaceful harvesters of hay or fruit, next moment they may be gathering bits of rifles and fragments of shells, forced as they work, to take cover from the enemy's fire. Here they find hidden stores of wine—there of ammunition.

Their work would be in vain if the whole army did not help them. It is therefore an important part of the Collector's duty to stir up other people to help and to give them the chance of doing it. So there are collecting stations at many places, where everyone gives up his treasure and gets a receipt to take to his paymaster for a reward. The romantic touch is missing, but the importance of the Collector's calling in both military and civil life is clear. If ever in peace time it was almost possible for a philanthropic society to be maintained entirely by collecting things useless to their owners, naturally in war time, with the decreased imports many an article once carelessly thrown away has become invaluable. The number of empty bottles obtained by the Collecting Company is reckoned in millions and shows the importance of detail work. These are sent to the great bottle collecting station; and sorted into 85 different kinds.

It is the same with the old metal; the secret of success in this work lies in the sorting. Each heap of material given in is at once divided up.

Fortune still lies in the street for those who know how to look for it. Everything is collectable, corks, rags, paper in addition to the things mentioned above, everything brings to the economical finder a reward for the collection, as well as the feeling that he is discharging a National duty.

## THE ST. MARYLEBONE NURSING HOMES WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

A useful association bearing the above name was inaugurated at a meeting at 2, Park Square, W., under the chairmanship of Mr. Boyton, M.P. Miss Rowell, 49, Beaumont Street, has kindly offered to have the meetings at her house, and Mrs. Lauriston Shaw to explain the details of the scheme. Meetings were held for nurses on Wednesday and Thursday, April 11th and 12th, at 2.30 p.m., and one will be held for the domestic staffs on Wednesday, April 18th, at 3 p.m. Although primarily organised in connection with Nursing Homes, other residents in Marylebone, and members of the domestic staff of any household in the borough are eligible. There will be two separate branches so that the domestics may not have to compete for early certificates with any but themselves.

## NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

### New Appointments.

*Addington Park War Hospital.*—Mrs. Clarke (Staff Nurse).

*Exeter V.A. Hospital.*—Miss Howell, Mrs. Kerrigan (Sisters), Miss Ridge.

*Terry Hill V.A Hospital.*—Miss Bousfield (Matron).

*Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton.*—Miss J. Knox (Sister).

### The Manchester Branch.

We have received several letters from Manchester approving of our remarks on the autocratic attitude of Miss Sparshott, the Chairman of the Manchester Branch of the N.U.T.N., and pointing out that so long as this lady, as Lady Superintendent of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, is empowered to qualify the Nurses' Certificates, a free expression of opinion cannot be expected from them on the Nursing College question.

We are of opinion that it is high time the authorities of the M.R.I. determinedly discountenanced any coercion of their nursing staff in this connection.

It is absurd to say that nurses of any hospital are free agents if the Matron is a partisan member of the Nursing College Council.

We learn that medical opinion in Manchester is by no means satisfied with the *status quo*.

### The War and State Registration of Nurses.

*The American Journal of Nursing* for March contains a very illuminating and logical article by Miss Eden, entitled "The War and State Registration of Nurses." It is very necessary that our sympathetic colleagues in the United States should be kept enlightened on the present phase of the nursing controversy in this country, as they have followed it with understanding and no little indignation, for so many years.

This admirable article concludes:—

"We are at the parting of the ways. One road looks pleasant and easy. You just put a penny in the slot (a guinea as a matter of fact), and the college does the rest. If you take the other road, you will be asked to do some hard thinking, attend meetings, read up subjects, perhaps oppose the opinions of those in high places. But whither do the roads lead? One will lead to lay control, to the deadening of the intellectual level, to the paralyzing of independence of thought and expression, to economic dependence and the consequent lowering of the standards of the profession. The other road will lead to the control of the profession by those who best understand its needs; and this will bring with it a quickening of the sense of responsibility towards and pride in the profession. The power of judgment and the faculty of expression will be developed, the influence of nursing opinion will then make itself felt, and better conditions will be the result, not only for nurses themselves, but for the public, which is dependent on their efficiency."

This is how *real* registrationists feel on both sides of the Atlantic.

## IRISH NURSES AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

Members of the Irish Nurses' Association are to be congratulated that it is probable their long and interesting work for higher professional education and registration may bear practical fruit in the near future, as the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Ireland have under consideration suggestions from some of the most experienced members of the Association, and unanimously supported by the Sister and Nurse members—of a scheme for more systematic instruction and the granting of Diplomas for trained Nurses, as in the case of medical students. This would be a tremendous step forward in the right direction, as such qualifications would be a very great incentive to better teaching for nurses, and an honourable recognition of their work and status—all ready for Registration when an Act is passed for this purpose by Parliament, authorising a Statutory Body to carry out such work, analogous to that of the General Medical Council. What intelligent nurses have realised during the past year, made very plain by the dangerous constitution of the College of Nursing scheme, is the danger of monopoly of disciplinary powers being assumed by any one teaching Body or College, over the whole body of nurses in the United Kingdom, and this monopoly in Ireland Irish nurses are determined to resist; and in so doing they are setting their colleagues in England and Scotland an example which sooner or later they must follow, unless they are content to be subject, without appeal, to a self-elected Council of persons who have shown a very undesirable and illiberal spirit, before they have even been approved by the Privy Council, much less by Parliament.

The Irish are out to construct their educational curriculum, and subsequent standard of State Registration on a wide and far reaching basis—as opposed to despotic rule, and have stood firm throughout the year's controversy in a manner which commands the sincere admiration and heartfelt thanks of the organised Nurses' Associations throughout the world.

The Irish Nurses' Association will have the scheme of the Irish Colleges before them at an early date, when we may hope for authenticated information for publication.

### Sick Pay for Army Nurses.

We are glad to note that Miss Kearns, the Secretary of the Irish Nurses' Insurance Society, is drawing public attention to the present unsatisfactory conditions for Army Reserve Sisters and Nurses invalided out of the Service. We have brought this question before numerous Members of Parliament, and hope to learn from the War Office without much further delay that adequate help will be forthcoming from the State for Sisters and Nurses who now can claim nothing, and during illness depend upon the pittance of 7s. 6d. a week from their Insurance Society. Such a position could not have arisen if the Nursing Boards at the War Office had acted with greater promptitude, insistence, and sympathy towards the rank and file. They should have taken the initiative early in the war, and not assumed a diffidence towards potentates and powers in the War Office, which has, from lack of courage, produced very deplorable results. As a member of the Mansion House Committee, T.F.N.S., City and County of London, we were very unfavourably impressed with the attitude of those connected with the Advisory Council, when we brought this question of provision for nurses invalided out of the Service, forward at the beginning of the war.

## "THE MYSTERIOUS PACT."

We have received a long "apologia" from Miss Mary C. Good, purporting to be a criticism of our remarks last week concerning the "Secret Agreement" entered into between the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. and the Honble. Arthur Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, who signed the "mysterious pact" in their *personal*, and not in their official capacities as Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd. Miss Good and her fellow signatories to the communication consider our deductions "a misrepresentation of the true position of affairs and very far from logical"!

As we propose to devote some consideration to this document we must postpone the pleasure of inserting it until next week.

Miss Good, who writes from 44, Devonshire St., W., is one of the thirteen nominees of the R.B.N.A. on the Council of the proposed Royal British College of Nursing, a title by the bye widely and quite illegally used by its promoters, as it has not yet been sanctioned by His Majesty in Council.

The signatories to the communication do not appear to realise that should the Supplemental Charter be granted the Royal British Nurses' Association ceases to exist, and not even "illogical misrepresentation" can alter this fact, but as professional self-governing co-operation appears eminently distasteful to the type of nurse of which the R.B.N.A. is now largely composed, this fact is presumably of no importance. We founders of the British Nurses' Association think otherwise, and naturally resent being deprived by its medical managers of our Royal Chartered Corporation, for which we worked and paid.

## COLONIAL NURSING ASSOCIATION.

### NEW APPOINTMENTS.

The following new appointments have been made since October, 1916:—

Hospitals Under Government of South Africa.

E. A. Evans, J. Andrews, H. Edenborough, F. Byrne, L. Griffiths, A. Cordwell, T. Grant, M. Mee, Johannesburg Hospital.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS.

A. J. Thompson, Gold Coast Government Hospitals.

C. L. Haswell, Federated Malay States Government Hospitals.

R. Browning, Gibraltar, Colonial Hospital.

E. A. Tindall, Nigeria (Southern Provinces) Government Hospitals.

E. D. Thompson, St. Kitts, Cunningham Hospital, Matron.

D. B. Henderson, Straits Settlements Government Hospitals.

C. Jones, Trinidad, Colonial Hospital.

M. Rhind, D. Rolfs, B. Nesbitt, Nigeria (Northern Provinces) Government Hospitals.

V. M. Watkins, Gibraltar, Colonial Hospital.

K. Gordon, British Togoland Government Hospitals.

E. Newton, Federated Malay States Government Hospitals.

G. Denton, Gold Coast Government Hospitals.

E. May, Ceylon Government Hospitals.

M. Fox, Zanzibar Government Hospitals.

R. Cartwright, Jamaica, Public Hospital, Kingston, Matron.

K. Yule, Falkland Islands, King Edward Memorial Hospital

O. Marriott, L. Browning, Federated Malay States Government Hospitals

E. Millington, St. Vincent, Colonial Hospital, Nurse-Matron.

D. Freear, Uganda Government Hospitals.

S. Elsdon, Cyprus, Central Hospital, Nicosia, Matron.

J. Lloyd, Ceylon Government Hospitals.

S. Symonds, Nyasaland Government Hospitals.

A. Simmons, Straits Settlements Government Hospitals.

PRIVATE NURSES.

M. Booth, Lisbon Nurs. Assoc.

H. Brunning, Mauritius Branch.

A. T. Robinson, Shanghai, Victoria Nurs. Home.

V. M. Cobbett, Oporto Nurs. Assoc.

J. Black, Shanghai, Victoria Nurs. Home.

M. I. Drake, Shanghai, Victoria Nurs. Home.

## GUY'S HOSPITAL PAST AND PRESENT NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting, and the Ninth Annual Dinner of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League will be held in the Nurses' Home on Friday evening, April 20th, at 7 p.m. Tickets may be obtained, by members, price 1s. each, and application for them should be made not later than Thursday, April 19th, addressed to the Hon. Secretary at the Matron's Office, Guy's Hospital, S.E. 1.

Owing to the war, and the difficulty of getting exhibits from Members abroad, it has been decided not to hold a Competitive Exhibition of Photographs as usual, but an effort is being made to collect as many prints as possible to show to the Members who attend the Annual Meeting, which will take place at 8 p.m.

## APPOINTMENTS.

### MATRON.

**St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, S.W.**—Miss J. M. T. Babtie has temporarily been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. George's Hospital, and, after obtaining a varied experience elsewhere, returned to St. George's Hospital as Assistant Matron.

**Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, Cheshire.**—Miss Mary H. B. Lockwood has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Manchester Children's Hospital, and St. George's Hospital, London, and has been sister at St. George's Hospital, Sister-in-Charge of the Hospital, Hamilton, Bermuda, Sister and Home Sister at the Manchester Children's Hospital, Matron of the Children's Hospital, Belfast, and Home Sister at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

### HOME SISTER.

**City of London Lying-in Hospital, City Road, E.C.**—Miss Janet Fairweather has been appointed Home Sister. She was trained at the St. Marylebone Infirmary, and has been a member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

### SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

**Workhouse, Belper.**—Miss Sarah E. Taylor has been appointed Superintendent Nurse. She was trained at the Prescot Infirmary, where she subsequently held the position of Sister and Night Superintendent Nurse.

## WEDDING BELLS.

Many friends of Miss E. Cooper, Matron of St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, S.W., will be interested to learn that she has resigned and vacated the post on account of her approaching marriage.

Miss Cooper, who was trained at King's College Hospital, was subsequently Sister and Assistant Matron at the Royal Free Hospital. Her charm of manner and invariable courtesy gained for her many friends who will, we are sure, desire to offer her congratulations and good wishes.

The wedding of Miss Florence Duckett and Mr. Richard Kenyon, M.B., C.M., Edin., of Glasgow, took place at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wimbledon, on April 7th. A reception was held at 20, Mansell Road. Mrs. Kenyon was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and the Coombe Hospital, Dublin, and for some months worked at the Grove Hospital, Tooting; for the past four years she was on the staff of the Registered Nurses' Society, London, from which she did military nursing in Egypt, in the Government Hospital, Alexandria, and No. 7 Convalescent Hospital, Montazah, also transport duty on the hospital ship, "Galeka." Very sincerely do Mrs. Kenyon's colleagues wish her and her husband much happiness in their married life.

## NURSING ECHOES.

A little over a quarter of a century ago, trained nurses who desired to take up private nursing work were faced by two alternatives. They could join a private nursing institution, where the salary they received did not represent an equitable proportion of their earnings, or they could nurse "on their own," a system which had many disadvantages, because, though they might receive promises of work from doctors, the difficulties of arranging for calls to be received, and the fact that busy medical practitioners tired of sending for a nurse who, if successful, was generally engaged when they got into communication with her, was apt to result in a decreasing amount of work.

The report of the Nurses' Co-operation for 1916, 22, Langham Street, W., just to hand, shows that there are 459 fully trained nurses on the general staff, 35 asylum trained nurses for mental cases, and 22 nurses eligible for election working on probation for six months. Since August, 1914, many of the nurses have been engaged in nursing soldiers, and every endeavour is made to meet the calls of the War Office and Admiralty. With few exceptions they have kept well and happy in their work, but the committee record with sorrow the death of Nurse Jessie Ritchie at Salonica after three weeks' illness, and of Nurse H. L. Lea after two years' service in France and Egypt. The Co-operation has also lost by death Nurses Isabella Brown, Jane Macfarlane, Emma Tucker, and Mary Willes. Thirteen of the members have married, and twenty-five have resigned, their places being filled by nurses working on probation.

Owing to the war and the difficulties caused by change of staff, it has been found necessary for the present to close the Restaurant at the Howard de Walden Nurses' Club.

The Co-operation has shared in the military honours awarded to nurses, and Nurses Blacklock, Greany, Humphrey Jones, Cowie Mitchell, and Walsh have received the decoration of the Royal Red Cross.

The Balance Sheet shows that the gross receipts from patients amounted to £50,629 os. 2d., of which the sum of £47,510 11s. 7d. has been paid to nurses.

In the Report of the East London Nursing Society for 1916 the Ladies' Committee state that the shortage of nurses, and the consequent difficulty of getting the work done, has been an outstanding feature this year, and "the thanks of the Committee and the patients are indeed due to the Matrons and Nurses who so toiled in the latter's behalf."

The year has also been one of great anxiety and difficulty in regard to the raising of sufficient funds to meet expenses, and the Report states "that there is unfortunately no sign of this burden, or of the shortage of nurses, being diminished in the near future. They are, however, greatly cheered by the knowledge of the loyalty and courage with which the Matrons and Nurses have carried out their arduous duties, and by the generous support received from old and new friends."

The Committee state, in conclusion, that, with so many proofs of sympathy and support, they face 1917 with courage, relying on the help of those who appreciate what the work of the Society represents to the sick people of East London.

A sub-committee of the Devon County Council has been appointed to deal with applications from nursing associations for grants. Every application will be treated on its merits. Where help is given towards the maintenance of a midwife it will be by way of a grant, not exceeding £1 for every patient, and 10s. for every maternity patient, the grant to be paid to the association, not the nurse.

Here is another specimen of philanthropic sweating. Under the heading of "Cornish Nurse's Strenuous Duties" the following paragraph appears in the local press :—

St. Stythian's Nursing Association held its annual meeting on Tuesday, the Rev. R. F. Moody (vicar) presiding. Mrs. Wesley Andrew (hon. secretary) reported that the year had been a very strenuous one for the nurse. In the majority of maternity cases no doctor was called in unless absolutely necessary. There had been times during the year when, owing to the patient's distance from a medical man, the nurse had been the means of saving the patients' lives by her prompt attention and experience. Several very trying cases during the spring meant heavy night work, as well as great responsibility. The working hours in April and May averaged 12 to 18 daily. Out of 11 consecutive days and nights the nurse was up for 8½ nights. An average day was supposed to consist of eight hours' work, but that had been exceeded 230 times. This year for the first time, owing to extra expenses, there was an adverse balance of about £2.

An interesting ceremony took place recently at the Glasgow Nurses' Club, 10, Claremont Terrace, Glasgow, West, when the Club was thrown open to Sisters, Nurses, and V.A.D. workers in the military hospitals in Glasgow.

The Club has been open for sixteen years, first at Charing Cross, Lansdowne Crescent, and recently in its present quarters.

The Countess of Eglinton and Winton, who addressed those present, said her heart was full of admiration for the nursing world. The devotion of the nurses was beyond praise, both those abroad, and those on general home duty. She was sure that many of the military nurses would be only too happy to take advantage of the opportunities afforded them by the Club.

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*The Canadian Nurse* announces that Dr. Maud Abbott, of McGill University, has had a delightful sketch of the life of Florence Nightingale published with 15 portraits of the Queen of Nurses. The book is entitled "Florence Nightingale, as Seen in her Portraits," and copies may be had at the Club House, 638A, Dorchester Street West, Montreal, Canada. Cloth, one dollar 25 cents; paper, 75 cents. The profits go to the Canadian Red Cross.

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The Canadian Society of Training School Superintendents, and the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses will hold their annual conventions in Montreal from June 12th to 15th. A great muster is invited.

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We notice quite a little crop of articles from our own pen culled from these pages without acknowledgment in our monthly exchanges from abroad. The Editor of the *B.J.N.* is of course flattered at this sign of appreciation, but the journal is copyright, and the source from which an article is quoted must be given in future.

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We congratulate our American confrères, and specially Dr. Helen Parker Criswell, who has accomplished the task, that in the immigration law recently passed by both Houses of Congress over the veto of President Wilson, nurses are now classed as persons belonging to a recognised learned profession, instead of being classed by the Government as contract labourers, and excluded from the country when engagements to fill professional positions were arranged outside the borders of the United States. This decision will in time, undoubtedly, have a marked effect on the social status of the nursing body, and is greatly to the advantage of nurses emigrating to the States.

## LEAGUE NEWS.

We have received recently our copy of the *Bart's League News,* which is excellently edited by Miss Helen Todd and is full of interesting news, papers, and letters.

Miss Hannah Simpson writes from Oporto, where the war with Germany has not apparently changed the mode of life—although sugar has gone up to 2s. 2d. a lb. !

Mrs. Cooper, *née* Davis, writing from Bombay, says :—" When war broke out I wrote up to Simla offering my services, but was told that just then no more nurses were needed than Q.A.M.N.S.I. could supply. However, in April, 1915, a great many were called upon for their services, and I was sent to two up-country stations. Later I was sent to the big war hospital at Colaba. The wounded from Mesopotamia were pouring in, and the work was most interesting though exceedingly hard. About July the sick began to arrive, and the hospital was practically all medical. In September I went up to a hill station called Chakrata for a month. It was really a lovely place; the hospital seemed perched on the highest available hill. We used to hear fearsome stories of leopards prowling after dark, but never saw or heard any, much to our disappointment. . . .

The trained nurses of India are feeling rather sore on the V.A.D. subject. They have usually from one to two months' training, and are paid at the rate of £10 per month; whilst we trained people are only getting about £11 10s. per month, and we do feel that skilled labour is being horribly cheapened. It is not the actual money but the ratio of the pay. One begins to wonder what one's four years' training is worth. However, I suppose the only answer to that is that, to make supply meet the demand, a substantial salary must be offered. Only it is rather hard on the trained nurses of India, who all volunteered for service directly war was declared. . . . I have met quite a number of Bart's men; they are always so pleased to see the League brooch, and to have a talk over old Bart's days and ways."

We are glad to note that the Statement prepared on the instruction of the Central Committee, concerning the negotiations, which unfortunately have not resulted in agreement, between that body and the College of Nursing, Ltd.—entered into with the object of drafting a Conjoint Nurses' Registration Bill—is published in full in *League News.* We hope all League members will read it carefully—as it is a very clear statement of fact, and every nurse should acquaint herself with the truth on this question.

## A WOMAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

Our illustration, which we feel sure will be of great interest to our readers, is of Miss Jeannette Rankin, Member for Montana, U.S.A., the first woman to be sent to Washington as a Member of the House of Representatives, where her appearance naturally excited much interest, and Representative John Evans, the only other member from Montana, presented her with pride to his colleagues. Previous to her appearance in Congress Miss Rankin was entertained at breakfast by supporters of women's suffrage from many States and all shades of politics, when she asked for their encouragement and support in her work of fighting for women in Congress from the inside.

When the vote was taken on the war resolution in the early hours of April 6th, Miss Rankin, according to the *Times* correspondent, rose when her name was called and said, "I want to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war. I vote 'No.'" The Roll-call showed Ayes, 373; Noes, 50.

We regret that Miss Rankin cast her vote with the Noes, as we think she would have shown a more statesmanlike grasp of the position if she had followed the Presidential lead. War, till the present Prussian military autocracy is crushed is a necessity, if civilization is to be preserved and peace made possible in the future.

MISS JEANNETTE RANKIN,
MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.A.

But even in this country we only dimly realise what the brutal heel of the Hun, and more especially of the House of Hohenzollern, involves, and, failing imagination, appreciation of the position is still more difficult 3,000 miles away. One thing is certain, that in the new civilization which, under a true democracy, will follow peace terms dictated by the Allies, the voice of women will be raised against war in the future. Never again must the hideous ruin and waste of life which the present war has caused be permitted to devastate the world. Enfranchised womanhood will unite to prevent a reversion to barbarism.

One thing Miss Rankin has proved by her vote—she is ready to cast it on the unpopular side if conscience so dictates, and conscience in our law-makers is a priceless asset. Her career will be watched with great interest.

## RETIREMENT OF FATHER RUSSELL.

To many nurses the resignation by the Rev. E. F. Russell of the curacy of St. Alban's, Holborn, is a matter of sincere personal regret. They owe much to his ministry there, and the service of "Perseverance" which is peculiarly his own, is one which seems designed for tired nurses. The quiet hour on Sunday afternoon has been to them a help and refreshment. Not the least of Father Russell's virtues, especially where nurses are concerned, is his punctuality. With the stroke of the clock at a quarter past four he would always appear from the vestry, himself presiding at the organ, as well as conducting and preaching at the service.

After fifty years of strenuous work without pecuniary reward, during which time he has had the happiness of seeing many of the things for which the St. Alban's clergy have striven so courageously accepted by the Church at large, his friends must be glad that Father Russell will have a life of greater freedom. No one will doubt that his helpfulness, kindness, and rare sympathy will still find means of expression.

Since 1876, when, owing to the initiative of the late Miss Susan Antrobus, the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses was founded, Father Russell has acted as its Chaplain-General, and for many years he has been Chaplain of St. John's House, so that he has been much connected with nurses throughout his ministry.

It is interesting just now to recall that the Church in this country owes to St. Alban's the Three Hours Service on Good Friday, which proved so helpful a devotion that, from St. Paul's Cathedral to the smallest village church, there are few parishes in which it has not been adopted.

### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Never could the State have been saved by its present enfranchised members. It has been saved by the calling up of its unenfranchised reserves. Above all, there would have been no chance for the National Cause had it not been for the work of the women.—*The Observer.*

## A War Time Economy

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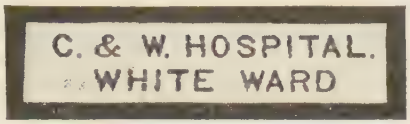


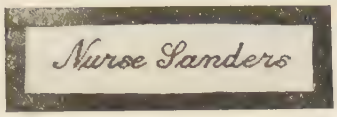


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## BOOK OF THE WEEK.

### "THIS WAY OUT."*

At any rate, Mrs. Dudeney can lay claim to being original in this latest of her works, and in addition also to being the reverse of dull.

The prologue describes how a Cornish clergyman had discovered and perfected an idea which would revolutionise the mining industry. We are introduced to him the day after he had proposed to Rebecca and been accepted. But Rebecca mattered not at all in comparison to the invention. Andrew Curnow loved Rebecca, and he had by chance hit upon the same invention as the Rev. John Trewhella. When Trewhella discovered this, he pushed his rival over the edge of the rocks on the wild Cornish shore at Clodgy point, and so stilled him for ever.

It is with his descendant, John-Andrew Vaquener, that the story is chiefly concerned and history, to a certain extent, repeated itself.

John-Andrew was a man of letters and he desired fame. His ideas burned within him, but so far he had failed to express them successfully. Entirely without means, he yet intended to force himself upon London.

To attain this object he resolved to live upon his sister Jane, who also wielded a pen for her living, and who occupied rooms in Gray's Inn.

Jane is a creation, and her personality is one of the strongest things in the book.

Her brother reflected upon her as he was making his way to her rooms, where he proposed to live upon her earnings.

Poor, industrious, commonplace Jane! Jane—vulgar, affectionate, genuine! Dear Jane, with her staring eyes and her short neck; Jane, with her noisy voice and kind heart—she was sitting by the fire now, waiting for him and with something hot for tea.

Jane got up from her chair by the fire. She put her arms round him; her fat arms in the thin blouse! "Good old Johnny," she said, affectionately. "So you've come back."

She went bustling about. How she combed out your nerves, poor girl! Everything about her was high and brightly coloured and thick.

Vaquener shot a look at her that was uncommonly like hate; for he did hate Jane's complacence and Jane's competence. She could make her living easily and he had not succeeded in making his; he was always coming back to her and sponging upon her.

Buttifant, an artist, who lived in the set opposite Jane, was in love with her, as much and as deeply in love with her as though she were not plain and clumsy, noisy and common. But Jane apparently was indifferently unaware of this fact, although she and Buttifant were intimate chums. She had an inordinate conceit of her person and ability, which carried her triumphantly through most situations. Good-natured as she was to her parasite brother, she did not hesitate to refer to his dependent state. She would say before Buttifant: "I'll have to buy you a new bowler soon, Johnny; or would you sooner have a Homburg?" Buttifant saw Vaquener's mad face, it touched and alarmed him.

John-Andrew, though he lived upon Jane, chafed and fretted under it, but made no effort to earn money in another direction. He foresaw years and years of living upon her, of listening to her typewriter, of taking money for small expenses from her roll-top desk. She had even spoken of drawing a cheque for his new suit, saying, with hearty amiability that it was only fair that he should choose the cloth. He did nothing but dress himself, eat his dinner, and do the marketing for Jane.

Shortly after his advent, she conceived the idea of writing the play, "Cackle Street," and when it was finished she read the MS. to Johnny.

It was supreme, he told her so; but for once she failed to appreciate herself.

Johnny had been a great drain on her resources, and with misgivings she went to see her agent.

But Johnny became a prey to unreasoning jealousy.

"As to letting Jane swagger about London as the author of 'Cackle Street,' he would be hanged if he would.

That night, after elaborate precautions he goes into her room intending to murder her.

Jane was awake. Her eyes looked and taught him all sorts of things. He would never forget that look.

He turned away, and said to himself grimly: 'No, it didn't come off.'

That night, however, Jane died by her own hand; but Johnny realised that he was her murderer. That did not prevent him from producing 'Cackle Street' as his own.

All the same it came to him that it was Jane, confound her, who did the strong thing.

She had kept herself; she had kept him; she had written 'Cackle Street'; she had killed herself. All the strong record was Jane's."

H. H.

* By Mrs. Henry Dudeney. London: Methuen & Co.

### COMING EVENTS.

*April 20th.*—Guy's Hospital Nurses' League. Dinner, 7 p.m. Annual Meeting, 8 p.m. Nurses' Home, S.E.

*April 27th.*—Quarterly Meeting Matrons' Council, Nurses' Home, Charing Cross Hospital, by kind invitation of the President, 4 p.m. Tea, 4.45 p.m. Address by Mr. Eustace Miles, on "Health, Economy and Food," 5 p.m.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD (England).

*April 19th.*—Monthly Meeting. Offices, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, S.W. 3.30 p.m.

*April 20th.*—Penal Cases. Offices, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings. 11 a.m.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD (Scotland).

*April 30th.*—Examinations. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not* IN ANY WAY *hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

### THE VOTE COVERS ALL.

*To the Editor of* THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I offer my congratulations on the soundness of your prophecy at the N.U.T.N. Conference that the franchise was coming? and also upon the fact itself, which will, I trust, bring nearer the ideals for which you have fought so long and gallant a fight? The unanimity of the political leaders is very remarkable.

Yours sincerely,

Coddington Court, Ledbury. C. M. WADE.

### THE KENSINGTON GARDENS CLUB FOR NURSES.

*To the Editor of* THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—*Re* your appreciative notice of the above club in this week's *B.J.N.*, may I add my testimony?

My two sisters and I arrived in London after a long journey under somewhat trying circumstances. One sister's husband was taken by us to a nursing home after a bad accident. There were endless delays, and the sister I refer to being due for an abdominal operation suffered much pain. We arrived at Miss Cave's house very exhausted, and she gave us the kindest welcome, and more than that she made us feel absolutely at home and comfortable, and gave us many thoughtful kindnesses.

I should like Nurses to realise what a very nice club it is over which Miss Cave presides with so much kindness and understanding.

Yours faithfully,

SISTER ON SICK LEAVE.
Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.

### A COURT OF INQUIRY FOR MILITARY NURSES.

*To the Editor of* THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I write to call your attention to a notice that has been sent round to members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service requesting them to sign a new agreement.

This agreement promises nurses an increase of salary of £20 a year after one year's service.

But amongst its terms is one which I notice is the clause which you consider unfair. It states that the nurse may be immediately dismissed from the Service for any misconduct or neglect of duty and forfeit all gratuities due to her. As you point out one person is to be the sole judge of such misconduct. Could anything be more unfair? Other nurses like myself may have much need for extra salary, but can you advise us to sign this agreement which puts us absolutely at the mercy of one woman who might be unfair or prejudiced?

All other members of His Majesty's Forces may claim a Court Martial. Why not a Court of Inquiry for Nurses?

Perhaps other Nurses are feeling as I do in this matter. It would be interesting to have their opinion of such injustice.

Yours truly,

JUSTICE.

[There is no sort of tyranny which requires to be more carefully watched and guarded against than that of a bureaucracy. Scratch the bureaucrat and you find the despot. If certificated Nurses refused to sign such an agreement it would have to be modified or withdrawn. We cannot believe that Queen Alexandra, who is the President of the T.F.N.S., can have approved of this provision.—ED.]

*To the Editor of* THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Several Irish nurses want to thank you for drawing public attention to the "Offending Clause." We are of opinion that the Matron-in-Chief's Department at the War Office is urgently in need of reform. Many Irish Nurses have been most unjustly dismissed.

Yours sincerely,

Dublin. SEVERAL SUFFERERS.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

*April 21st.*—How are wounds infected? How may infection be avoided or minimized?

*April 28th.*—How would you prepare a patient for the operation of removal of an eye? Describe the subsequent nursing care.

*May 5th.*—Name some diseases that may be caused by the following errors in diet; (*a*) insufficient food, (*b*) lack of fresh food, (*c*) overeating, (*d*) improperly balanced diet.

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# Prize Competition.

**Prize Competition Coupon**

**April 14th, 1917**

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*Address* .....

## RULES FOR COMPETITION.

1. Any reader of The British Journal of Nursing may compete for the prize of **FIVE SHILLINGS** which will be paid to the **writer of the best article of from 300 to 750 words on the following subject—"How are wounds infected? How may infection be avoided or minimized?"**

The dated Coupon for April 14th, published on this page, must be cut out by the Competitor, and enclosed with the article she sends, with her full name and address inserted. The number of words of article to be written on left hand top corner of first page. This answer should be posted not later than **April 14th,** to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole St., London, W., marked on the envelope "Prize Competition." **The Name of the Winner of the Prize and the Prize Article will appear on April 21st, 1917.**

2. The Editor's decision must be accepted by each Competitor as final and unquestionable.

# The Midwife.

## THE EAST END MOTHERS' LYING-IN HOME.

At the Annual Meeting of the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home, 394–398, Commercial Road, E., on April 18th, a resolution will be moved affirming "That the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home is engaged in excellent work and deserves wider financial support, in order that it may be able to maintain its efficiency and enlarge the sphere of its activity."

No one who reads the Annual Report which is to be submitted to the same meeting can fail to endorse the Resolution, and, we hope many will help to provide or to procure the financial support of which the Home is in need, if its good work is to be maintained.

The report of the Lady Superintendent, Miss Margaret Anderson, for 1916, incorporated in the general one, will move the stoniest heart, if any such there be when all of us are realizing, as never before, how precious to the nation are the lives of mothers and babies. Miss Anderson writes, in part :—

It is interesting to note that during the past year we have delivered 1,770 patients. This meant an increase of 130 In-Patients, which is very satisfactory, as more can be done for the mother *in* the Home than in her own home. The present is a trying time for motherhood : so can one wonder when a mother, whose husband is in the trenches and whose home has been twice wrecked by Zeppelin bombs, is delivered of a dead child ? Rather one wonders that the mother herself lives. The deep, unspeakable, hopeless agony with which a widowed mother brings a fatherless baby into the world leaves an impression on the beholders for all time. God keep our fatherless babes. Owing to nervous strain from various causes, many, many babies came prematurely, but with the exception of nine all did well. There were fourteen sets of twins, and, in spite of all the hardships, the bulk of the babies have been godlings according to their mothers, excelling in beauty Eros, in wisdom Confucius. Such is the power of that wonderful thing called a mother's love !

In the Out-Patient Department, 1,091 cases were attended, among which were 15 sets of twins, and out of this great number of babies only 13 died. 22,650 visits were paid by day and dark, black night, and these visits included many long-time sittings. All know how dark it is in the main thoroughfares and residential parts of this city, so just picture the darkness of the slums. The return to the dark ages is an additional nerve-strain to our District Nurses, and sprained ankles and muddy cloaks heve been of frequent occurrence, and a jarred spine is not unknown. When minor catastrophes happen, the poor "culprit" is usually greeted with the truly sympathetic remark, "However did you manage this, Nurse ? you *must* have been careless." Poor dears, they never really blessed the moon before. District Nursing requires extreme self-sacrifice, and our Midwives were always willing and ready—in fact they were kept busy enough to keep the devil out. Coming into such close touch with the patients, they have voluntarily brought to the notice of the Home cases of distress and hardship among wounded soldiers—men who, at the first call of the Empire, answered with "Behold, here am I," are now returning broken and wounded. Many of them say they do not understand "papers and things," and sit down to endure unnecessary hardships, when a little efficient assistance from Miss Page puts things right for them, or our influential friends help them to get work or the assistance most needed.

Sixty pupil nurses have been trained during the year. The practical work has been so heavy that pupils and teachers have often been more fit for bed than receiving or imparting knowledge, but we all persevered, with the result that only one Nurse failed to obtain the C.M.B. Certificate. She has been so fully occupied with monthly nursing since that she has been unable to make a second attempt.

Much difficulty has been experienced in getting a sufficient number of pupils. It has been essential, therefore, to get the work done efficiently, to train pupils free of charge. The preference has been given to soldiers' and sailors' wives and widows.

We have had several changes in the Nursing Staff. Three Sisters left early in the year, for bigger pay, lighter work and more glory. We thanked them for their work, wished them success and filled their places. Our latest deserter is Sister Davies. She, also, has left to better herself, and has accepted the post of Assistant Matron at a London Hospital of 700 beds. She was District Sister for two years, and her place will be difficult to fill. She was loyal to the interests of the Home, and liked by all. Personally, I shall miss her bright face and hearty laugh.

So many Sisters leaving, makes us appreciate the devotion of those of the Staff who remain with us year after year, turning deaf ears to the offer of finer posts, contenting themselves with the humble, hard, non-glorious work of looking after mothers and infants.

On Christmas Day our Committee and other kind friends as usual gave us—to quote the cook—a "heavenly time." The 140 children were most happy—enjoyed their tea, enjoyed their tree and toys, and, above all, enjoyed their gift of clothing. At the distribution of clothing one little lad asked how we knew he wanted a shirt. They nearly split the roof with cheers when Father Christmas (Dr. Arthur Stabb) appeared, and during the

evening they sang every recent street song—a noisy, happy lot. Four of the children of mothers who were burnt to death in a fire at a local factory were asked, and one of the little girls got the only big doll on the tree. The whole crowd were delighted that it fell to her share, "because her mother was dead and she ain't got no father."

The mothers and husbands had a lovely "meaty, hammy, plum-puddingey-cakey,' tea in Queen Mary Ward, and enjoyed themselves immensely. One sailor said that he hadn't had such a feed since he went to sea, and it would last him another six months. We expected no husbands, but three soldiers—one sailor and one flying man—had Christmas leave, so were able to be present, besides two men who were daily expecting to be called up and six elderly unfits.

Miss Anderson's concluding words to the supporters of the Home are :—

The misery of our mothers is mitigated by your benevolence and humanity. Your kind words and deeds are the golden rivets which help to hold together the splintered vase of human happiness. May Almighty God reward you for all your infinite pity and goodness to our mothers, and for all the practical help and sympathy which never fail me.

We hope many golden rivets will be placed in Miss Anderson's hands. She is an expert riveter.

## INFANTILE DEATH RATE.

Answering Mr. O'Grady, who put a question in the House of Commons on March 26th respecting the decline in the infantile death-rate to 91 per 1,000 registered births, Mr. Hayes Fisher (Secretary to the Local Government Board) said : "There is no foundation for the suggestion that the decline in the infant death-rate is due to the decline in the number of children who are vaccinated. The lower death-rate is not confined to districts in which vaccination is neglected, and at least one-half of the infants die before the age at which vaccination is usually performed. The decline in the infant death-rate is no doubt due to a number of causes, one of the most important of which is the valuable work which is now undertaken by local authorities and voluntary agencies for attending to the health of mothers and infants.

## THE ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.

The 160th Annual Report of the Royal Maternity Charity is now available. Price 6d. to non-subscribers. The midwives of the Charity all hold the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, and, as far as possible, are selected from those who are all fully trained hospital nurses.

## THE MIDWIVES ACT COMMITTEE, L.C.C.

Mrs. Wilton Phipps has been appointed Chairman, and Miss A. S. Gregory Vice-Chairman of the Midwives Act Committee of the London County Council for the ensuing year.

## INFANT WELFARE WORK AT THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

A meeting over which the Lord Mayor will preside is to be held at the Mansion House on Friday afternoon, April 27th, when Lord Rhondda, Mr. Balfour and Lady Barrett will be the speakers, on behalf of the Infant Welfare Appeal Committee of the Royal Free Hospital.

The hospital has had a gift of an adjoining site, valued at £30,000, to further its infant-welfare schemes. As a consultative centre for the many infant-aiding associations of the boroughs in the neighbourhood, the hospital has great reputation. It has a fine infant clinic, and babies who cannot be looked after properly in their own homes are taken into a special ward.

Money for the infant-welfare section of the hospital is urgently needed, and may be sent to the appeal secretary, Miss Marie Arnold, 34, Victoria Street, S.W.

## THE EDINBURGH ROYAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Sir Alfred Ewing, K.C.B., Principal of the University of Edinburgh who presided at the Annual Meeting of the Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital held on March 26th said that 1,890 cases were treated by the hospital during 1916, an increase on 1915, and the indoor cases (738) were also a record. A large proportion of the cases the institution assists were the difficult ones in which the need for help was greatest. It was important to make good the terrible losses of manhood in the war by aiding and encouraging the birth of children in every possible way. At present, sad to relate, though fewer children were born, one in nine did not survive the first twelve months after birth. As these deaths were due for the most part to preventable causes those interested in infant welfare were directing their energies to a reduction of that figure.

Speaking of the falling birth rate the Medical Officer for the city, Dr. Maxwell Williamson, said that it had not fallen more during the war than during the forty-five years immediately preceding the war, but it clearly indicated the need for associating a maternity with a child welfare scheme. Of the 575 deaths of infants under one year in the city during 1916 no fewer than 220 were due to prematurity and immaturity, and 175 occurred during the first four weeks of life. There was ground for hope that much good might result from the co-operation of the Royal Maternity Hospital and other maternity centres with the Corporation in its new scheme for maternity and infant welfare.

The report presented at the Annual Meeting of the Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital showed that eight private pupils and five sent by the County Nursing Association had entered for the C.M.B. examination and all passed.

# THE
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So far the demands made upon the Society's funds for sickness benefit have been considerably less than was anticipated, and its position is, therefore, an excellent one from a financial standpoint.

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